

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 21, 2005

**Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway
Mezzanine Conference Room**

**7:00 pm
MINUTES**

Commission Present: Ann Gowans, Dan Devine, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Larry Hine, Terry Kloeppel

Commission Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Gowans.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion from Kloeppel, seconded by Hine.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved on a motion from Hine, seconded by Kloeppel.

Monthly Report

Kloeppel asked about the grant for Flat Branch Phase II project.

Hood explained the Phase II project involves routing the MKT Trail under Locust and Elm, as well as improvements to the Flat Branch stream, adding a small playground area, picnic seating, and a bridge connection to the Convention and Visitors Bureau with a water fountain play area. Hood said the parks department received approval from the Department of Natural Resources for a \$149,850 grant for the project, which will provide significant financial support. Grants and donations will pay for about half of the project with the remainder coming out of the budget. Hood added that the department should be seeking bids by early summer for the clean-up portion of the project with the development phase starting in early fall.

Knudson asked if the trail would then be routed back up to the street

Hood said yes it would.

Knudson asked about the Stewart and Providence project.

Hood told Knudson the two projects are tied together. At their last meeting, the Council held a public hearing and authorized staff to proceed. We are hoping both projects will proceed together and are waiting on Corps of Engineers permits. As soon as those clear, we're ready to begin work.

Knudson asked if blueprint for tunnel has already been planned.

Hood answered that yes, a sewer line will be lowered at Providence Road to allow the trail to pass through. That will be the first thing that happens.

Knudson indicated that the Bike Commission had talked about that at a meeting, specifically asking about crossings on the trail. Knudson added he'd like to look at the trail plans sometime.

The March monthly report was approved on a motion from Kloeppel, seconded by Grus.

Rezoning –Old Plank Road south of Rt. K

Griggs said the development is located within a half-mile of Cascades Park, an undeveloped tract donated as part of the development. The park is located at the intersection of Sinclair and Rt. K while the proposed development is south of Rt. K.

Hine asked if the development was within city limits.

Hood told him the request for rezoning was to be part of the annexation.

Hine asked how the park would be impacted.

Griggs said the drainage would not have adverse impact on Cascades Park. Concerns are pedestrian access from the new neighborhood across Rt. K to the park. A recommendation could be no adverse impact but the developer should figure out pedestrian access or set aside land on Rt. K for a neighborhood park.

Hine asked is there a proposal for greenspace in that area?

Griggs said he did not know, at this point we only had the rezoning map that did not have a lot of detail.

Hood added the developer did not have to file a plat at this point that would show that amount of detail.

Hine asked if the plat would come back to the commission later.

Hood answered that the plat would be reviewed by staff but does not come before the Commission.

Kloeppel said he thought the request was being heard at the Planning and Zoning meeting tonight.

Hood said that there is a lot of concern by residents in the area regarding growth.

Devine asked about the size of Cascades Park?

Griggs answered that it is about 11 or 13 acres.

On a motion by Hine, seconded by Grus, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see the potential for adverse impact from the proposed rezoning by the amount of park use that the development might generate. The Commission would suggest the developer be encouraged to provide safe pedestrian access or set aside space within the development for a neighborhood park.

All in favor: Hine, Grus, Gowans, Devine, Pauls, Knudson, Kloeppel

Motion carried.

Stephens Lake Park Dedication

Hood told the Commission that the Council has set a date for the Stephens Lake Park dedication of June 26 at 2 p.m. It will be held in the small island shelter. Wanted to make sure the Commission had it on their calendar. Will be more information coming later.

Pauls said he saw campers on the lake the night before.

Hood said he was not aware of that.

Special Olympics Summer Games

Ristow said that the spring games were held last weekend with great participation from the athletes. The spring games lead up to the state summer games that will be held in Columbia for the third year, in cooperation with the University of Missouri. Dates will be May 25-27. They're looking for volunteers, which is a great way to spend a couple of hours and help the cause.

June Park Tour

Hood asked the Commission if they would like to take the traditional tour of the parks in June. If so, staff would like to start planning the tour.

Hine said the date sounded OK with him.

Hood said staff would begin planning. The commission should plan to meet at PMC at 5:30 on June 16 for the meal and tour.

Council Items

Hood told the Commission that the MKT underpass project would proceed as discussed earlier and approved by Council on Monday.

Hood added that the Council also approved a lease agreement for the CARE program. The program will be in the same building, which is a great location to reach the kids served. They can walk from Hickman or Douglass High School if needed. Hood said the program's previous office space had been crowded and was too small. When other larger space came available in the same building from the Big Brothers Big Sisters

program, CARE was able to move. Hood told the Commission the CARE program was very pleased with the new space. New lease is for five years.

Hood said that another item coming up is an ordinance appropriating funds for the memorial tree program. We will be appropriating about \$7,000. We collect donations throughout the year and once a year, go to the Council for the appropriation.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs reported that the digesters have been removed at MLK. However, the contractor cut the electrical and water lines to the parking lot, which made the water fountain at MKT-Stadium area unusable. We have received some complaints about this. We will run a new water line to the drinking fountain.

Hine asked if the contractor had responsibility for that?

Griggs told him no, it was a public works project and the contractor was not made aware the lines were there. However, removing the digesters is a project we've wanted to do for a long time.

Griggs added that there are new bike racks installed on Ninth Street. A black pipe slides over the parking meter poles for people to hook their bikes to. Each meter post essentially becomes a rack for a bike. Hood said Ninth Street was chosen as the pilot because of number of bikes parked there. If the project proves successful, it may expand throughout downtown area.

Griggs told the Commission that the new Antimi fields are complete and were put into play on Saturday. Have heard a few complaints that the field is too powdery, but weather should settle this condition.

At Stephens Lake, Griggs said the shelters are done, grills, walkways and electricity to shelters are complete. The first rentals have been made for April 29. Griggs added we have also received several requests for special use permits for weddings on island shelter. Staff is trying to maintain control of debris on island, so we will watch that closely.

Hood said we have a "carry-in, carry-out" policy on the island shelter and will require a significant deposit for special events to ensure shelter is cleaned.

Griggs said the perimeter trail contractor has gone about two-thirds of the way up Walnut, so that project is moving along. Our staff is working on the day camp building, a pre-fabricated, log structure. Once the footings and slabs are in, the building will be delivered.

Knudson asked about the progress of the footings for the building.

Griggs told him half the footings are in and the sewer line is being run.

Knudson asked if the line running from across the road is water?

Griggs answered that water and gas came across the road. Sewer line is down the hill.

Knudson said the park is looking nice and he has seen a lot of people there.

Griggs added that the beach was packed last weekend.

Commission Comments

Knudson said he believed the art project at Stephens Lake will progress. He added he has heard nice feedback and commended the parks staff for doing a good job on the park. He asked if there is some way to save some of the creek bank at Walnut?

Hood said there has been discussion with Mr. Lender. He announced at the last Planning and Zoning meeting that he intends to make a donation of greenbelt area to city. We encourage that strongly. We do want to work with the developer to correct the erosion problem there first.

Hood added that staff met with the Noll family. They had left \$50,000 to the city for city landscape improvements. We took a proposal to the family that the waterfall and gardens be built with their donation. Family strongly endorses this idea. This will go to the Council for their approval.

Pauls asked about algae in the swimming lake at Stephens.

Griggs said it was treated this week, in the shallow area. He added that aquatic planting will help. Staff will also install a recirculating pump that will pump from the deep end of the lake to the shallow end.

Pauls then asked about the lights.

Griggs told him it was one of the last things to go in. We're looking at solar panel lights in some areas.

Knudson asked about turn lanes going into park from Old Hwy. 63.

Hood told him that off of Broadway there will be a center turn lane and right turn only out of park.

Griggs added we have asked Public Works about Old 63 and we have not heard anything back.

Pauls thanked staff for the special use permit for the FFA group. He added that Rosanna Arens, park ranger, is doing a great job. She recently helped at a situation of a contractor running over two trees at Bear Creek.

Griggs reported that Arens is back at work full-time and has a temporary, part-time person. The part-time person fills hours that Arens does not work, so there is good coverage. The part-time person is not a law officer but she does have capability of issuing citations.

Gowans announced this would be her last Commission meeting. She will not seek another term when her current one expires. She said she is leaving after a very long time and she has loved every bit of it. She's sorry to leave but staff has been wonderful to work with and she is sure that someone very good will take her place.

Hine added that his term is also up and he will ask to be reappointed because he would like to be part of the group to see the Stephens Lake Park to fruition.

Hood asked Gowans if she would return to the July meeting for a presentation and if she would come to the Stephens Lake Park dedication.

Gowans said she planned to come to both.

Staff Comments

Hood welcomed Tammy Miller, new public information specialist, to the staff.

Public Comments

Hine thanked staff for help with his bluebird monitoring project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.